Irregularities in Purchase of Seeds, Fertilizers, Pesticides and Plants

404. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been rampant corruption and irregularities in the matter of purchase of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and plants in various States :

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken cognizance of the fact;

(c) the number of cases of irregularities and corruption which came to light and the action taken therein; and

(d) the details of purchase policy followed by the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (c) The following cases of frauds and other irregularities in the purchase of fertilisers/administration of Retention Price-cum-Subsidy Scheme have in the recent past come to the notice of the Department of Fertilizers :

(i) National Fertilizer Ltd.'s deal with M/s. Karsan Ltd. of Turkey for import of Urea;

(ii) Import of Fertilizers by National Fertilizers Ltd. through M/s. Sai Krishna Impex;

(iii) Claim of retention price subsidy with the support of fabricated documents etc. by;

(a) M/s. Punjab Phosphates Pvt. Ltd.;

(b) M/s. Harsvardhan Chemicals & Minerals Pvt. Ltd.; and

(c) M/s. Phosphate India Ltd.

The cases at S.No. (i), (ii) & (iii-b) are under investigation with Central Bureau of Investigations (CBI). In the case referred to at S.No. (iii-a), CBI had filed a Charge Sheet in the Court of Law on 30.12.1995\4 against 23 persons including 10 Central Government Officials. The case at S.No. (iii-C) is presently under scrutiny with CBI.

(d) States Governments/UTs do not purchase fertilizers. Therefore, the question of State Govts.UTs having a Purchase policy does not arise. Information regarding purchase policy followed by States/UTs regarding Seeds & Pesticides is being collected from States and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Use of Pressure Horns

405. SHRI JAI PRAKESH (HARDOI) : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a law banning the use of pressure horns in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the said law being flouted blatantly by the buses and trucks;

(c) whether the traffic police is not checking the use of pressure horns and challaning the buses and trucks violating the law;

(d) if not, the number of trucks and buses challaned on this count in the last three years, year-wise and the money collected therefrom; and

(e) the further measures taken by the Government to enforce the law strictly ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The law provides that no motor vehicle shall be fitted with any sound producing device giving unduly harsh, shrill, loud or alarming noise.

(c) and (d) The buses and trucks violating the law are duly challaned. The details are given as under :

Year	Total Trucks Challaned	Cash (in Rs.)	Total Buses challaned	Cash (in (Rs.)
1994	51867	3786300	9685	864300
1995	111494	9953600	11110	1020300
1996	172033	14214800	15795	1379500
1997 (upto 31.1.97)	9071	707100	522	47500

(e) Special drives are conducted from time to time to check this menace. The motor vehicle owners are also educated through pamphlets, etc.

Complaints Regarding Public Distribution System

406. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding the pilferage and manipulations in the Public Distribution System network;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to redress the complaints ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) No major complaint from State Governments/UT Administrations regarding piferage and manipulations in the Public Distribution System (PDS) network has been received. However, in a vast operation such as PDS, where commodities worth Rs. 15000 crores are distributed through a network of more than 4.37 lakh Fair Price shops throughout the country to 16 crore families, some